



FROM LEON DANIELS OBE
CHAIRMAN

Under the slightly changed structure agreed at the AGM your Trustees met on 3rd May ahead of the regular CoM Meeting on 11th May. This note is an amalgam of both and of recent developments.

Efforts to recruit and retain younger members and volunteers was agreed as a priority action, as was filling the outstanding HR Manager role unfilled since the retirement of Steve Edmonds. This was leading to staff shortages in several areas including stewarding – we have come frighteningly close to not being able to open on a few days recently. A big effort will now be made to try to fill this important post.

A very promising meeting has occurred with the developers of the neighbouring JTI site. This looks to become an integrated retirement village operational from 2025. Not only have the developers made clear they wish to become good neighbours but also they see the whole museum site as fertile ground for keeping their residents active. We look forward to what that brings.

We were sad to learn of the departure (to the Watercress Line) of Amanda Squires at Brooklands Museum. She has been one of the strongest links we have between us and Brooklands. On the subject of Brooklands Museum we do now have an early date to resume our Joint Management Committee which has really only met once during the past couple of years.

Although we are a relatively small, volunteer-only organisation we still need to comply with the myriad of safety, governance and legal requirements, and we are grateful to Nigel Fryatt for expertly delivering our Emergency Plan which has been approved.

Our rolling stock has had some misadventures and sadly RML2760 continues to consume more water than it should and is again off the road pending repair. Although it completed its activities for 'Surrey Day' for BBC it didn't make it to London-Brighton. RMC1461's tachograph unit failed again after repair and finally returned to active duties on 26th May. Unfortunately, RF19 suffered partial seizure on its way to East Grinstead. The RF is now repaired and back on display. All this work has made progress on other projects more difficult to achieve.

D142 is now away for painting and will be back later this year ready for display and use. STL441 is in the workshop for major attention to reduce its pronounced sag. (Yes, I know it is authentic but there comes a time when you can't let the windows take all of the strain).

We are now running 20 minute Bus Rides from the Museum at weekends and during school holidays only. This is to save fuel and reduce wear and tear.



We had an excellent 'all-nighter' with C111 photographed at all its old main-line railway haunts overnight on 1st May. A dozen lucky members paid £100 to join and were rewarded with scenes including a vintage taxi, bus stop, flag and actors. Thanks to Des Maybury for making it possible.

Following the sad death of former LT man, conservationist, preservationist and record keeper John Marshall both his Ford Cortina Radio Car and RFW14 are now on display in the Museum. They are on loan from his estate. The illuminated LT bullseye donated by Andy Barr has now been fitted to the rooftop.

We had a really successful Spring Gathering and the scene is now set for two more event pairs: the route 81 running day on 12th June ahead of our Summer 'On the Buses' event on 26th June; and a route 37 running day on 1st October ahead of our TransportFest on 23rd October. Your support for all of these events is hugely welcomed.

RTL139 will soon return to be available for the forthcoming Stockwell open day as well as WVLI, and we are hoping in the next round of vehicle movements to have UMP227 back for display after a long absence.



Brooklands recently celebrated 100 years since its 350hp Sunbeam broke the Land Speed Record here.

This was famously depicted in the Frederick Gordon Crosby's painting of the time with an equally fast steam train as a background. This whole scene was recreated on 17th May, when 'Mayflower' hauled a Steam Dreams set on the down fast line. 100 passengers alighted at Woking and were transferred by RTs 3491 and 4779 to Brooklands, led by the President of the National Transport Trust Lady McAlpine.

So it remains a really busy time for everyone involved in the Museum. We do continue to need more volunteer help and if you can help in any way please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes



Leon Daniels
LEON DANIELS OBE

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The London Bus Preservation Trust Ltd

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